

THE

UNIVERSAL FESTIVAL

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6/2, 5-E, Nazimabad, Karachi.
Islamic Republic of Pakistan

On it therefore let them rejoice. That is
better than all their wealth (10:58)

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No one knew or even surmised since how long in the past, these celebrations and conventions were held. It appears that the First Step to this convention was taken up thousand and thousand of years before the Emergence of The Holiest Manifestation of Divine Splendour and Majesty (ﷺ). The Convention was presided over by none other than Allah Almighty Himself. More or less one lakh and twenty four thousand Prophets and Messengers of Allah participated in their Primal Spiritual Existence. The Convention was addressed by almighty Allah. The Deliberations began with the Oath by the entire Assemblage of the Prophets and Messengers of Allah to stand by the Greatest of All Creations (ﷺ) full assurance of Obeisance and Help to him, with a Promise that they would leave nothing in their endeavours, sacrificing even their most precious possessions for the fulfillment of the Divine mission on Earth.

The members of the Prophetic lineage took the said Oath, and promised to stand by unflinchingly to what was assigned to them on that sacred most Occasion. A glimpse of that Convention known as “The Charter of the Prophets” (عليهم السلام) is given by Holy Qur’an in these authoritative words :-

وَإِذَا أَخَذَ اللَّهُ مِيثَاقَ النَّبِيِّينَ لَمَا آتَيْتُكُمْ مِنْ كِتَابٍ
 وَحِكْمَةٍ ثُمَّ جَاءَكُمْ رَسُولٌ مُصَدِّقٌ لِمَا مَعَكُمْ
 لَتُؤْمِنُنَّ بِهِ وَلَتَنْصُرُنَّهُ قَالَ أَأَقْرَرْتُمْ وَأَخَذْتُمْ
 عَلَىٰ ذَٰلِكُمْ إِصْرِي قَالُوا أَقْرَرْنَا قَالَ فَاشْهَدُوا
 وَأَنَا مَعَكُمْ مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ﴿٨١﴾ فَمَنْ تَوَلَّىٰ بَعْدَ ذَٰلِكَ
 فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ ﴿٨٢﴾

“And remember when Allah took from the prophets their covenant whatever I should give you of the Book and wisdom then comes to you the Messenger confirming your Books, then assuredly you shall believe in him and assuredly you help him. He said, “do you agree, and do you accept My heavy trust on it”? All submitted, “We did affirm” He said, “then be witness against one another and I am Myself among witnesses with you.”(1)

The pristine intellect endowed to mankind, come to the inevitable conclusion that when that grand "Charter" was presented and willingly accepted by all Apostles and messengers of Allah they must have resolved to remind the "Charter" and to celebrate the Advent of Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) in the company of their followers. Thousand upon thousand such assemblies must have been held in every nook and corner of the universe. At least not less than one lakh twenty – four thousand such pious Assemblies must have been held, indicating the minimal number or one Milad gathering under the auspices of each prophet of Allah. This extensive celebrations of the arrival of the Supreme Most Prophet of Allah makes it imperative to conclude that his August Personality must have been recognised and acclaimed as distinctly and unambiguously as a father recognises and picks up his own son in the midst of the up-teens of sons belonging to other parents. This is not mere human conjecture; rather it is the verdict of the Holy Qur'an which testifies this feature as a commanding Truth when it says:

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ ۗ
وَإِنَّ فَرِيقًا مِّنْهُمْ لَيَكْتُمُونَ الْحَقَّ وَهُمْ يَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٦﴾

“To whom We gave the Book recognise this Prophet (ﷺ) as they recognise their sons; yet a group of them conceals the truth knowingly”.(2)

The same irrefutable Truth has been repeated at another place almost in the same words as above. It is said:

الَّذِينَ آتَيْنَاهُمُ الْكِتَابَ يَعْرِفُونَهُ كَمَا يَعْرِفُونَ أَبْنَاءَهُمْ ۗ
الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنفُسَهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُؤْمِنُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾

“Those whom We gave the Book recognise this Prophet clearly as they recognise their own sons. Those who have put their souls in loss would not believe”.(3)

That is why the Holy Prophet Ibrahim (عليه السلام) while praying for the Advent of Muhammad (ﷺ) did not take his name but only said ‘Rasul’ (The Messenger) from among themselves:-

رَبَّنَا وَابْعَثْ فِيهِمْ رَسُولًا مِّنْهُمْ يَتْلُوا عَلَيْهِمْ آيَاتِكَ
وَيُعَلِّمُهُمُ الْكِتَابَ وَالْحِكْمَةَ وَيُزَكِّيهِمْ ۗ إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ
الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿١٢٧﴾

“O our lord! And send in them a messenger from among themselves, who may recite to them your Book and wise knowledge and may purify them all, surely, You are alone the Predominant wise”. (4)

Thus when every heart was filled to the brim, with the Love of that Supreme Personality, setting forth his mention on every lip, the people must have come round to accept and believe him as the source of relief from all ailments in every field of Existence. They began to solicit Divine favour and make the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) as the mediation of their approach in the Divine Court, by stretching their eager hands and bending their hearts in demonstration of their love and Devotion, and citing his Holy name as the Symbol of Success. The Holy Qur’an rehearses this inevitable love and Regard of this devotion in the following memorable words: -

وَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ كِتَابٌ مِّنْ عِنْدِ اللَّهِ مُصَدِّقٌ لِّمَا
 مَعَهُمْ ۗ وَكَانُوا مِنْ قَبْلُ يَسْتَفْتِحُونَ عَلَى الَّذِينَ
 كَفَرُوا ۗ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ مَا عَرَفُوا كَفَرُوا بِهِ فَلَعْنَةُ اللَّهِ
 عَلَى الْكٰفِرِينَ ﴿٨٩﴾

“And when there came to them that Book (Qur’an) of Allah, which

confirms the Book (Tourait) with them, and before that they were asking for victory over the infidels by means of the same Prophet. Then, when came to them that known and recognised one they rejected him. So Allah's curse on those who reject". (5)

This historical truth is the testimony to this fact that this holding the convention assemblies to celebrate the remembrance of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) was the 'Custom of the Day' in the pre-historical era. The Holy Qur'an describes one such Assembly called by Hazrat Eisa (عليه السلام) when he addressed his devotees and Disciples (Hawaris). The Holy Qur'an mentions this meeting in these words:-

وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَبْنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي
رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ
التَّوْرَةِ وَ مُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ
أَحْمَدُ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهُمْ بِالْبَيِّنَاتِ قَالُوا هَذَا سِحْرٌ
مُبِينٌ ﴿٦﴾

“And remember when Eisa son of Maryam, said, ‘O children of Israel, I am Allah's Messenger to you, confirming the previous Book Tourait before me and conveying the glad news

of the Messenger who will come after me, His name is Ahmed ! “But when Ahmed came to them with bright signs, they said, ‘this is an open magic”. (6)

This was the last such Assembly held and addressed by the Messenger of Allah, among the thousands of such meetings, praising the advent of the greatest of all Creations in which countless numbers of Muslim followers of Hazrat Eisa (عليه السلام) raised their hands begging for the Divine Favour. The Messenger of Allah, Hazrat Eisa (عليه السلام) beside conveying the Glad Tidings of the Arrival of the last Prophet in the Prophetic lineage, also showed the Manners and Etiquettes of receiving and honouring the Expected Guest of Honour and the demeanour of begging the Divine favour of bounties. By way of consoling the heart of his Disciples and in response to their ardent desire, he prayed to Almighty Allah to send them their desired Food from the Heaven. It is only befitting that some details of this revealing event may be presented from the Holy Qur’an. It is said:

إِذْ قَالَ الْحَوَارِيُّونَ يُعِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ هَلْ يَسْتَطِيعُ
رَبُّكَ أَنْ يُنَزِّلَ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِنَ السَّمَاءِ قَالَ

اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنْ كُنْتُمْ مُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿١١٢﴾ قَالَ رَبِّ نُرِيدُ
 أَنْ نَأْكُلَ مِنْهَا وَتَطْمَئِنَّ قُلُوبُنَا وَنَعْلَمَ أَنْ قَدْ صَدَقْتَنَا
 وَنَكُونَ عَلَيْهَا مِنَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ﴿١١٣﴾ قَالَ عِيسَى
 ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ اللَّهُمَّ رَبَّنَا أَنْزِلْ عَلَيْنَا مَائِدَةً مِنَ
 السَّمَاءِ تَكُونُ لَنَا عِيدًا لِأَوَّلِنَا وَآخِرِنَا وَآيَةً مِنْكَ
 وَارزُقْنَا وَأَنْتَ خَيْرُ الرَّازِقِينَ ﴿١١٤﴾ قَالَ اللَّهُ إِنِّي
 مُنَزِّلُهَا عَلَيْكُمْ فَمَنْ يَكْفُرْ بَعْدَ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنِّي
 أُعَذِّبُهُ عَذَابًا لَأُعَذِّبَهُ أَحَدًا مِنَ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿١١٥﴾

“When the disciples said, ‘O Eisa, son of Maryam, will your Lord do, that he should sent down a tray of food from the Heaven? He said, ‘fear Allah if you have faith.’ They said, ‘we wish that we may eat of it and our hearts may be satisfied and we may see with our own eyes that you spoke truth to us, and we may be witnesses thereof. “Eisa son of Maryem submitted, ‘O Allah our Lord, send down to us dishes of meal from the heaven so that it may be a ‘Holy Day’ a (festival) for us, for the first and the last of us and a sign from You, and provide for us and You are the best of providers. Allah said, ‘I send it down to you. Now therefore who of you will commit infidelity, then undoubtedly I

*shall torment him with a torment
wherewith I shall not punish to anyone
in the entire Universe". (7)*

The heavenly Food promised to Hazrat Eisa (عليه السلام) indicates that the Heavenly food when descended from the Heaven would have been described as the source of enjoyment like the joy and delight of Eid for the people of the Past and the Future. Pause, and think why the Advent of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (ﷺ) should not be the Eid for the present and the future? Nay, a source of permanent Delight, for all the Times of the past, Present and the Future.

Allah Says:

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ قَدْ جَاءَ تَكْوِيمٌ مِّن رَّبِّكُمْ
وَشِفَاءٌ لِّمَا فِي الصُّدُورِ وَهُدًى وَرَحْمَةٌ
لِّلْمُؤْمِنِينَ ۝ قُلْ بِفَضْلِ اللَّهِ وَبِرَحْمَتِهِ فَبِذَلِكَ
فَلْيَفْرَحُوا هُوَ خَيْرٌ مِّمَّا يَجْمَعُونَ ۝

*“O people! There has come and
admonition to you from your Lord, and
healing of hearts and a guidance and
a mercy for the believers, Say, you,
(these are) only Allah’s grace and only
His mercy, on it therefore let them*

rejoice what is better than all their wealth”.(8)

Remembrance and Thanks giving have been stressed again and again in the Holy Qur’an. A few more verses in this connection are worth presentation and reflecting over.

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ
إِذْ هَمَّ قَوْمٌ أَنْ يَبْسُطُوا إِلَيْكُمْ أَيْدِيَهُمْ فَكَفَّ
أَيْدِيَهُمْ عَنْكُمْ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَعَلَى اللَّهِ فَلْيَتَوَكَّلِ
الْمُؤْمِنُونَ ۝

1) *“O believers! Remember the favour of Allah upon you when people intended to stretch out their hands against you, then He withheld their hands from you and fear Allah and on Allah only should the Muslims rely”.(9)*

وَاعْتَصِمُوا بِحَبْلِ اللَّهِ جَمِيعًا وَ لَاتَفَرَّقُوا
وَ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ إِذْ كُنْتُمْ أَعْدَاءً
فَأَلَّفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوبِكُمْ فَأَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهِ إِخْوَانًا
وَ كُنْتُمْ عَلَى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ فَأَنْقَذَكُمْ مِنْهَا
كَذَلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ آيَاتِهِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُونَ ۝

2) *“And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allah, and be not divided*

among themselves. And remember Allah's favour upon you. Remember when there was enmity among you, He joined your hearts together then, by His grace, you became brothers together and you were upon the brink of a pit of Fire, then He rescued you from it; Thus Allah explains to you His signs; that haply you may get guidance". (10)

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اذْكُرُوا نِعْمَتَ اللَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ هَلْ مِنْ خَالِقٍ غَيْرِ اللَّهِ يَرْزُقُكُمْ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَالْأَرْضِ
لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۗ فَآنتِ تُؤْفَكُونَ ﴿١٠﴾

3) *"O mankind! Remember the favour of Allah upon you. Is there any creator beside Allah who provides for you from the heavens and the earth? There is no God but He, where then are you turning back?" (11)*

The most auspicious and devotedly humble way of this remembrance is to send greetings or Durud-o-Salam to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and follow Almighty Allah and His Angles. The Holy Qura'n exhorts the faithful devotees in the Muslim Ummah to do the same in favour of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ)

and refrain from causing any injury to him.
Says the Holy Qur'an in this respect.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ وَمَلَائِكَتَهُ يُصَلُّونَ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ
آمَنُوا صَلُّوا عَلَيْهِ وَسَلِّمُوا تَسْلِيمًا ﴿٥٦﴾ إِنَّ الَّذِينَ
يُؤْذُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ لَعَنَهُمُ اللَّهُ فِي الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةِ
وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ عَذَابًا مُهِينًا ﴿٥٧﴾

“Undoubtedly, Allah and His angels send blessing on the Prophet the Communicator of unseen news, O you who believe! Send upon him blessing and salute him fully well in abundance. Undoubtedly, those who annoy Allah and His Messenger, Allah’s curse is upon them in the world and in the Hereafter and Allah has kept prepared for them a degrading torment.” (12)

Let us pause for a moment and reflect over the situation as to who is sending the Durud and Salam, setting the primal Tradition for the emulation of the entire Universe,

هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ ۝

1) *“It is He Who is the Creator of the Heaven and the earth.” (13)*

اللَّهُ نُورُ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ

2) *“Allah is the NUR of the earth and the Firmament”. (14)*

وَكَانَ اللَّهُ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ مُّحِيطًا ﴿١٤﴾

3) *“There is not a single space (in the Universe) which is outside His Encompassment”. (15)*

The human mind is compelled to admit that there is no place in the entire Expanse of the Creation from where no offering of Durud-O-Salam is being made. He is Omni- Present manifesting His Splendour in every nook and corner of the Existence. Beside Him are His Angels who are busy every moment in sending Greeting of Durud-O-Salam to His Prophet (ﷺ) There are Angels at our right hand as well as the left hand side.

مَا يَلْفِظُ مِنْ قَوْلٍ إِلَّا لَدَيْهِ رَقِيبٌ عَتِيدٌ ﴿١٦﴾

1) *“Not a word he utters but there is sitting a watcher ready by him”. (16)*

لَهُ مُعَقِّبَاتٌ مِّنْ بَيْنِ يَدَيْهِ وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِ يَحْفَظُونَهُ
مِنْ أَمْرِ اللَّهِ

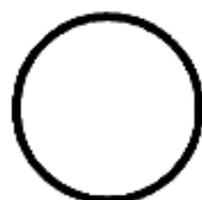
2) *“For man there are angels in succession before and behind him that they watch him”. (17)*

While there is glad tidings of Divine Blessing for those ardent devotees who are ever eager in sending the showers of greeting to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ), Allah says:-

هُوَ الَّذِي يُصَلِّيْ عَلَيْكُمْ وَمَلَائِكَتُهُ لِيُخْرِجَكُمْ
مِّنَ الظُّلُمَاتِ إِلَى النُّورِ وَكَانَ بِالْمُؤْمِنِينَ
رَحِيْمًا ﴿٣٣﴾

“It is He Who send blessings on you and His angels too that He may bring you forth from darkness into light. And He is merciful to the Muslims.”(18)

What more does a mortal being require? This is assuredly the manifestation of Divine Grace and Affection for the devoted Muslims who keep the Love and Obedience of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) above each and every pleasurable thing of their life. Verily this is a sublime reminder for every conscious Muslim as to what his obligations are in this behalf!



As offering Salam in standing position is concerned it is Sunna of the companions of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). All the men, women and children of Al- Madinah Al-Munawwarah offered Durud and Salam turn by turn before the funeral wooden throne of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) in standing position (as in the daily prayers) continuous for two or three days as advised by him (ﷺ). It was the last action of the companions of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ). The great traditionalist of the sub continent Shaykh Abd, al-Haq also referred to".(19)

We should not be so narrow minded for that supreme personality who sacrificed all his belonging for his Umma; who remembered his Umma to the last moment. The Umma should not be so rude as to criticise the lovers. Indeed it is highly surprising. The love demands total submission and servitude and not criticism.

Every true and selfless lover finds solace and satisfaction in admiring and adoring his beloved. He loves and admires those who value his devotion to his beloved. This is the natural course of love and affection. Those who deny this natural postulate in the realm of mutual living, they may be anything but they cannot be the lovers in the real sense. This is the demand of wisdom and the unstinted intellect.

It follows that in order to exhibit their attachment to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) sincerest love and Devotion to him must be given precedence over everything else of their liking. This is the uncompromising demand of the Lord Creator and Sustainer of the Universe. His demand and the warning in this behalf are clear like the sunshine and above all ambiguities. The Qur'anic proclamation in this connection is clear and forthright. Allah says:

قُلْ إِنْ كَانَ آبَاؤُكُمْ وَأَبْنَاؤُكُمْ وَإِخْوَانُكُمْ وَأَزْوَاجُكُمْ وَعَشِيرَتُكُمْ وَأَمْوَالٌ اقْتَرَفْتُمُوهَا وَتِجَارَةٌ تَخْشَوْنَ كَسَادَهَا وَمَسَاكِنُ تَرْضَوْنَهَا أَحَبَّ إِلَيْكُمْ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ وَجِهَادٍ فِي سَبِيلِهِ فَتَرَبَّصُوا حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ اللَّهُ بِأَمْرِهِ وَاللَّهُ لَا يَهْدِي الْقَوْمَ الْفَاسِقِينَ ﴿٢٠﴾

Say you, "If your fathers, and your sons and your brothers and your clan and the wealth of your earning and the trade of which you fear loss and the houses of your choice, these things are dearer to you than Allah and His Messenger and the struggling in His path, then wait till Allah bring His Command. And Allah guides not the disobedients".(20)

This verse covers and includes every pleasurable material object which attract every human heart. It is therefore clear from every conceivable angle that any person among the Muslim fraternity who desires to attain the nearness of Allah and his Holy Prophet (ﷺ) must in the first instance, sacrifice the love of the material belongings which attract him as the aim and goal of his life. Without this minimal sacrifice the claim of attachment and devotion to the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) will be a hollow and a fruitless dream. It also follows that he must be pleased to hear the Holy name of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) and his heart and mind must exuberate with the intense love and veneration of the Beloved of Allah. It is indeed unthinkable that any one with the claim of being a Muslim will go beside himself in anger and abhorrence on hearing the recital of the praise of the Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ). It is totally against the nature of love.

Allah has commanded that the adherents to Islam should follow the Tradition (sunnat) of the Messengers of Allah, and those of the righteous Muslims. At no place and at no time has He Commanded that the traditions of the jews and the Christians should be adopted even in day to day customs

and rituals. But it is disheartening that some so-called modernists in the Muslim Community have soft corners towards the Non-Muslims especially the jews and the Christians and other Non-Muslims.

The need of the hour is that the Muslims in their devotion to true Islamic tenets must rise above these so called traits of enlightenment and modernism! They must guard against any encroachment on their beliefs and practices; nor should they themselves be swept away by high sounding proclamations and sermons propounded with the clear intentions to weaken the Muslim solidarity. It is the demand as the Clarian call of our Eimam as true and devoted Muslims that we should cling to the Remembrance of Almighty Allah and His Holy Beloved Messenger Hazrat Muhammad Mustafa (ﷺ) against all odds, with-out wavering and swerving any moment, and safeguard this most valuable treasure.

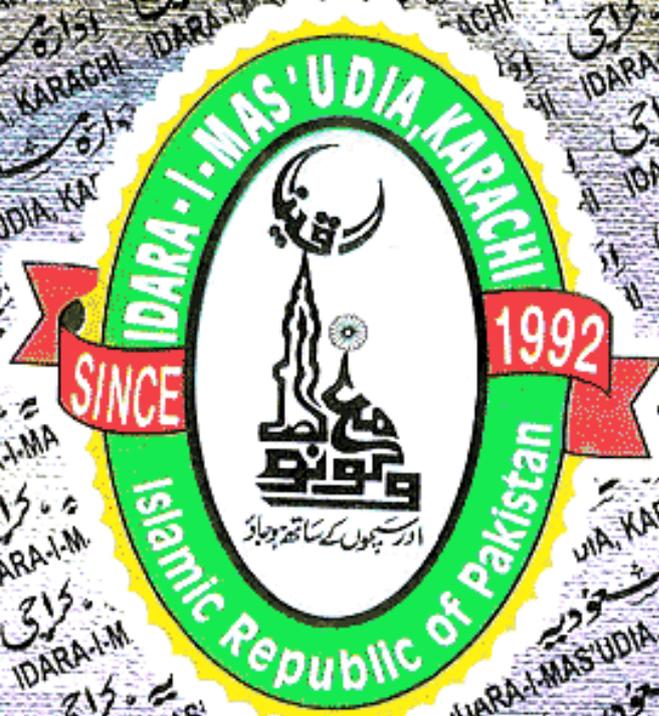
May Almighty Allah, help us to remain united so as to ward off all forces of darkness and tyranny. (Amin!)

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Dated 8th Rabi-ul-Awwal 1420 / 23rd June 1999.

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